AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

The A. F. of L. Weekly News Letter contains a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, according to the industrial, legislative and judicial fields, and such other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

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AGITATE! EDUCATE! ORGANIZE!

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INCORPORATION WOULD CHAIN UNIONS TO FEDERAL COURTS

Trade union incorporation is demanded by modern feudalists and their retainers, who insist that as "capital" (they mean capitalists) is incorporated, trade unions should do likewise, that they "may be held responsible for their acts."

This reasoning indicates the low value greed places on the people's intellectual capacity.

Corporations are not formed for the purpose of being "held responsible." The purpose is to evade liability.

Under the partnership form of doing business each partner can contract debts in the name of the company and all other partners are liable for the full amount. The property in the partnership can be seized for debt, and if this is not sufficient the other property of each partner can be seized.

Under the corporation form of doing business this danger is removed. An officer of a corporation can contract debts in the name of the corporation, but only the property of the corporation is liable. The property of stockholders can not be seized, as in the case of partnerships.

In a partnership each partner has the fate of his associates in his hands. In a corporation the by-laws and constitution of the corporation define the limits of officials.

Corporation stockholders invest what they are willing to lose and can not be held for other damages.

Business men are not compelled to incorporate, but they do so because persons will invest money without being held responsible.

It is now proposed to compel trade unions to do what is optional with business men.

If trade unions were incorporated they would be constantly menaced by the receivership process whereby their property and treasury would be at the whim of hostile courts.

This danger to a corporation does not exist. Its activities are clearly defined in its charter.

The activities of a trade union can not be defined because it is a social institution. It can not be separated from the human beings who compose it. These human beings have memory, understanding and will, as distinguished from a commodity, in which corporations deal.

If a trade union were incorporated it could be thrown into court by any detective, spy or "company man" who is a member of the union, and a property-worshipping judge would decide that the union's activities are not sustained by its incorporation declarations.

With the changing of social viewpoints and the adoption of new methods to meet industrial situations, no militant trade union could function under this system of court espionage.

Aside from reasonable hours, wages and working conditions, which affect the national life, there are high moral reasons for the trade union. The reasons for the corporation are efficiency, profits and limited liability.

The trade union is inseparably linked with each individual member of the union. The success of the union develops the intellectual and physical life of each member. The success of the corporation is judged by dividends.

If trade unions were incorporated national and international organizations would be under the jurisdiction of federal courts. This would permit injunction judges of the Anderson type to sit in judgment on a union's policies and ideals.

These are the reasons, rather than the professed purpose, why crafty feudalists and their defenders want trade unions incorporated.

They would have the unions controlled by judges whose property bias blinds them to an expanding, developing life, who are choked by their legalisms and who are without social vision.

Let no organized worker be lulled by the claim that trade union incorporators only desire unions to be held responsible.

Tyranny and wrong never makes direct attack. Its cards are never on the table face up. Its method is stealth, misrepresentation and flank attack. It says one thing and means another.

Organized labor does not shirk responsibility. And even if it did, it can be reached by criminal, civil and common law.

Our opponents know this full well. What they are now aiming at is the heart of trade unionism. They would have their judicial tools pass on its activities, its purposes and aspirations.

They would kill the soul of the labor movement with their judicial dagger and wrap it in the dead parchment of court procedure, custom and judge-made law.

DEFY "CAN'T-STRIKE" LAW; JAILED BY INJUNCTION JUDGE

Colorado Butcher Workmen Uphold American Ideal—Choose Prison Bars Rather Than Accept Slave-Enforcing Statute.

Denver, Jan. 14.—Because they refused to obey a court order to return to work in the meat packing plants, 27 strikers, including one woman, were sentenced by District Judge Morley to jail for terms ranging from one to 60 days.

The following are the names and sentences of the wage workers who choose prison bars rather than surrender an American ideal:

Timothy McCreash, district president of the butcher workmen, 60 days in jail.

Dan Mullen, Gilbert Clary and W. H. Hays, local president, secretary and treasurer, respectively, 30 days each in jail.

E. E. Yokem, Oscar Hilltrop and Herman Longhart, seven days each in jail.

Henry Duckett, Frank Scanlon, E. A. Calkins, Edgar Walter, Lawrence Harnandez and Stanley Kinder, each one day in jail.

Rose Travison and 13 others, suspended sentence of one day each in jail.

The injunction was issued at the request of the state industrial commission, which enforces—or is supposed to enforce—the Colorado "can't-strike" law.

Attorneys for the unionists asked for a stay of sentence, but this was denied and they were hustled to jail. The attorneys are contesting the decision.

Judge Morley painted a frightful picture of conditions in this state if violators of the slave legislation were not punished. Said the court:

"No matter whether you went out on telegraphic orders or on your own volition, your action constituted a strike and an open defiance of the Colorado laws governing industrial disputes. Said the court. Colorado workers, and the state federation of labor has issued an appeal to aid the strikers and to condemn the decision. The appeal includes a scorching denunciation of the law that would deny workers the right to strike.

MONEY-MAD VESSEL OWNERS WOULD PROFITEER ON HUNGER

Washington, Jan. 14.—The heartlessness of money-mad vessel owners is again shown in their attempt to profiteer at the expense of starving Russians, for the relief of whom congress appropriated $20,000,000.

The act provides that American ships shall transport 'the grain and other supplies. Instead of meeting this life-saving effort of the American people in the same spirit, the ship owners jumped their freight rates, which will decrease the amount of the appropriation that would reach the Russians. It was only after the senate floor that the rate of 22 cents per 100 pounds to ports on the Baltic sea has been increased to 44 cents. Because of this greed, the loss to starving Russians has been estimated between $1,000,000 and $2,000,000, with the resultant death of thousands of helpless people.

It is stated that government ships will be used where possible, although the repair of idle ships will be expensive. The government owns 1,400 steel merchant vessels, and 382 of these are in operation on regular routes. The remainder are idle and are in need of repairs, it is stated. This waste verifies the position taken by officers of the International Seamen's union, who have continuously urged the shipping board to place sufficient men on the ships to keep them in repair. The big unionists have pointed out to the board, time and again, that a ship in operation has a smaller repair bill than one tied to a dock or is anchored.

LAW MAKERS' "EATS" PAID FOR BY PEOPLE

Washington, Jan. 14.—By a vote of 189 to 74 the house voted money out of the public treasury to meet a deficit in the house restaurant, that is maintained for the benefit of the congressmen. "One of the worst politics prevails in the senate side of the capitol. The operators of the restaurants there have a free hand, electricity, furniture, equipment and other overhead, but the food charges are made to meet expenses and the house voted the difference out of the public treasury.

"This action is significant in view of the fight for a living wage that our government employes are forced to make while congressmen thunder on the need for economy.

In opposing the house paying the deficit, Congressman Sisson said: "The affair was a little thing, but little things are a test of character. A deficit in the house restaurant is what members of congress demand too much. To that end, he said, "The restaurant is losing money, and if you make members pay what they ought to pay, this would not be true," he said.

Miss Alice Robertson, the woman member, made the one speech in defense of the appropriation, which members realized was a ticklish subject. She insisted that the congressmen should be "fed well that they may be fit" to represent their constituents. This was roundly heckled. But the sentiment is never cheered when it is applied to wage workers.

"CAN'T BE DONE IN N. Y."

New York, Jan. 14.—"No more than a glance at the history of the Kansas industrial court, complicated as it is with the strikes it started and the strikes it failed to settle, will be needed to prove to any unprejudiced observer that the principles of compulsory arbitration in industry is inapplicable in this country at this time," says the New York World.

"There may be an age to come in which this will work. At the bidding of a judge while their demands remain unsatisfied, but that age has not arrived. Even more distant is the date, if the present attitude of capital is any indication, when employers will revise their methods and run their business generally—no matter what penalties are provided—in accordance with judicial decisions. The public sector still works when and where he pleases, subject only to the law of necessity, and money is invested when and where the investor likes.

"Now, there is too wide a gulf between these facts to support and attempt to repeal a force which has made Kansas ridiculous."

FIVE-CENT FARE INVALID.

Chicago, Jan. 14. — The federal court has set aside a 5-cent ruling by the state public utilities commission that would apply to Chicago street cars. The court ruled that the commission based its order on conjecture and did not afford the companies an opportunity to test its conclusions.

URGE SHIP SUBSIDY.

Washington, Jan. 14.—Private ship owners are urging a ship subsidy. They want a $160,000,000 loan and also want a revision of the La Follette seamen's law. The patriotic gentlemen recently doubled Truman H. Newberry's campaign fund, congress voted $20,000,000 to aid starving Russians.

UNIONS TO FIGHT BACK.

Chicago, Jan. 14.—Organized workers in this city have arranged an extensive campaign against anti-union forces. Meetings are being held in every part of the city.

The workers are telling the old, old story that unity of wage earners is an invincible power.

Theory and Fact Collide in N. Y.

New York, Jan. 14.—There is a theoretical excess of houses and apartments in this city, according to Samuel McCune Lindsay, professor of political science, Columbia university.

The professor made this statement before a housing committee. He acknowledged that he has no practical knowledge of the housing situation. A police canvass shows a shortage of 70,000 homes.

Prof. Lindsay also believes that the increase of 100 per cent in the enactment of emergency rent laws is "not an enormous one."

The professor insisted that he was paid $500 by real estate owners and landlords for preparing a brief in favor of the housing situation which the real estate men have submitted to the legislative committee. They are in their effort to annul existing rent laws. It is stated that the real estate men intended to give wide distribution to Prof. Lindsay's views as an "impartial" survey of conditions, which do not justify legislation now in force.

The university man's admission that he knows nothing of the housing situation, indicates how "scientific" opinion is often used to create public opinion.

Divisions on Tariff Law Recall Hancock's View

Washington, Jan. 14.—In 1830 General Hancock, a presidential candidate, was ridiculed because he said: "The tariff is a local issue." He refused to consider it as a national issue.

The American valuation commission proved conclusively that he was right.

"In the past the tariff has been a party issue, and with an administration and congress of the same political character of forthcoming tariff legislation. For the first time in history there is a sharp division of the leading parties on the tariff issue. Due to conditions growing out of the war, the pending tariff legislation is an issue on which party lines are almost entirely disregarded. The introducing of a element of uncertainty at a time when normalcy the result would be a foregone conclusion."

LABOR COLLEGE OPENS.

San Francisco, Jan. 14.—The labor college has opened its second term in new and larger quarters. The term is for 18 weeks. The courses include: Elementary English, advanced English composition, industrial economics, history of trade-unionism in the United States, current labor problems, wages and labor, history of the United States, American government and public speaking.

The college has been indorsed by the local labor movement. The expenses of the college will be met by charging a membership of $1 a month to students. This gives union representation on the board of directors and entitles the union to one free scholarship for the year.

300 PER CENT PROFIT.

Newark, N. J., Jan. 14.—Department store profiteering have made local retail meat dealers charge for sirloin steak exactly three times what they pay wholesalers for it. The steak costs the retailers 15 cents a pound and it is sold for 45 cents. Plate beef is bought for 8 cents, and is sold for 24 cents.

SCHOOLING COST JUMPS.

Bismarck, N. D., Jan. 14.—The cost per scholar per year in the common schools of this state has jumped from $25.92 in 1890 to $106.61 in 1920, according to the state superintendent of public instruction.

RETAIL CLERKS UNITE.

Sebring, Ohio, Jan. 14.—Retail clerks at this place have organized.

100 Per Cent Patriots Lack Clear Vision

Pittsburgh, Pa., Jan. 14. — One hundred per cent patriots can't see straight; they are blind to local and sentimental loyalties that develop character, Herman A. Miller, of Oberlin college, told the members of the American Sociological society.

"One hundred per cent patriots have the greatest obstructionistic to clear vision," he said. "In my opinion, 10 to 15 per cent would be a proper proportion of patriotism to represent the true situation. That would allow for local and sentimental loyalties, which are essential to character and leave enough to indicate significant groupings which are already interstational in scope, such as religious, culture, economic interest and sympathy, as is indicated by our feeding German and Russian children.

"There is no nationality to a hungry child, and there is no inconsistency in divided loyalties.

"The constitutions of the new states recognize this when they provide for the rights of national minorities. We are already there, on the verge of the practice of nationality, tolerance similar to religious toleration. Intolerance is now as anomalous as an absolute sectarian.

"It is the immediate job of educators to point out both the existence and the significance of national groupings to which we belong in order that our loyalties may be made clear as realities. The deification of patriotism in the British empire shows that we may have states and nations and an international patriotism without any strain on human nature."

WOMEN'S LABOR LAWS LIABLE TO BE WRECKED

Newark, N. J., Jan. 14.—In an address before a conference on women in industry, Miss Ethel M. Smith, of Washington, said that through the tragic experience with the courts wage workers have learned that there is a vast difference between actual equality and theoretical or judicially determined economic equality.

Miss Smith is national legislative secretary of the women's trade union league.

"Workers know the abuse of the term 'freedom of contract' by the courts," she said. "They know the courts are often influenced by the alleged interests. They know that every possible pretext has been seized upon by the courts and employers to challenge the constitutionality of labor laws.

"A thin, in the capital of the United States, laundry owners are withholding from the women laundry workers upward of $150,000 back pay on their legal minimum wage law. The employers have withheld this ever since they challenged the law in court, where a decision is pending."

The speaker opposed the proposed "equal rights" amendment to the federal constitution, which is being urged by the national women's party. This amendment provides that legislation that does not apply to both sexes is forbidden.

"The net result of all lawyers' opinions is their best guess as to how nine lawyers, the supreme court justices, will view the matter—after the women affected by the laws have been deprived of their benefits during the process of determination."

It was shown that the amendment would affect every law that applies to women, and that these laws would be set aside while the lawyers and courts discussed the constitution.

BACKS TRADE UNIONS.

New Haven, Conn., Jan. 14.—The trade union movement "is a great combination of races, creeds and classes," says the Journal-Courier.

"If it be argued that there is lack of discipline and control in the average labor gathering—apart from some groups whose daily tasks and training equip them for disciplined cooperation with the best in any calling—it may be retorted that at least the subtlety and inhibition of the able and cunning are absent.

"There is a great deal of ignorance among the schooled and protected classes as to the nature of a labor union.

"The confusion and grim realities that attend situations where great numbers of men are excited while work with their hands and have their daily bread to consider are a complex of intelligent and fair-minded leadership is the concern of all. Americans have not yet got to the bottom of the so-called labor question, though now and then there is a gleam in the darkness."

OPPOSE PRESS CENSOR.

Washington, Jan. 13.—Postmaster General Hays has announced his opposition to a bill which would prohibit newspapers from using any reference to betting odds on horse racing or any athletic or sporting event.

The postal official stated that while there are worthy sections of the bill, the proposal would be defeated to check the tendency of publicity.

"I am reminded," he said, "of Voltaire's statement: 'If you want to improve what you say and I will defend with my life your right to say it'."

BARBERS' CHIEF IS DEAD.

Albany, N. Y., Jan. 14.—Frank X. Schonhaag, president of the Journeymen Barbers' International union, with headquarters in Indianapolis, died in this city, after a stomach ailment of several weeks. Deceased was well known to trade unionists of the United States and Canada.

WHEELS ARE BUZZIN' ALL SET FOR REVOLT

New York, Jan. 14.—Once more the nation is to be overthrown. The usual preliminary will be to wreck the Stock Exchange.

The stage has been set. Blue prints have been drawn. Proclamations have been issued. Organization machinery is ready to start, when 10,000 unorganized I. W. W. dues paying members. Then the high sign to revolute will be given by the "leaders."

All this was arranged at a meeting in a New York hall, at which "unions" dual to the A. F. of L. were represented, including the one-time United labor and-indorsed the Russian third international. The A. F. of L. organization system, controlled by Samuel Gompers bureaucrats, except the control of the new organizations, is not in any subordinate officials is held by a small group.

A few of the members who are democratically inclined object to this dictatorship, but they are told that it is necessary for genuine revolutionists to guard the movement against over-zealous men who would sidetrack the great uprising.

No longer will workers be made to dare apply this autocracy, but the world savors awe the multitude—the I. W. W. "day" of the awakening comes, another revolution is started on a more "scientific" lines and the blue prints and pronouncementors are revised.

The present dualist movement was launched with the usual pleas for the "unity of labor" and attacks on "Gompers bureaucrats."

MEXICAN LABOR IS CAUTIOUS.

Washington, Jan. 14.—Former Secretary of Agriculture Wallace, of President Obregon's cabinet, has not joined General Pablo Gonzalez in revolt against the Obregon administration in Mexico. This was made clear in a telegram received by Canuto A. Vargas, Spanish language secretary of the Pan American Federation of Labor, of which Samuel Gompers is president.

The telegram has been signed by Jose F. Gutierrez, general secretary of the Mexican federation of labor, said:

"Villarreal-Gonsales reported legislative session (meeting of confederation (from cabinet) approved by Mexican federation of labor."

What is reported in news dispatches from Mexico City that Villarreal had taken the field and joined Gonsales, a former Carranza general, to oppo Obregon. Secretary Vargas immediately wired an inquiry to Mexico City, and the telegram signed by Gutierrez is said to that inquiry.

Villarreal, well known in the United states, was considered one of the most radical of Obregon's cabinet members, the fact that the Mexican labor does not support him is considered of the utmost significance.

END GRADE CROSSINGS.

Washington, Jan. 14.—The grade crossing of the country according to the department of agriculture, which declares that this menace in life "must go and will be eliminated wherever possible on the roads of the country within a few years."

During the three years ending 1921, according to the best records available to the department, 2,636 persons were killed at grade crossings and 10,644 persons were injured.

MORE CONTRACT BREAKING.

St. Paul, Minn., Jan. 14.—Photo engravers in this city and Minneapolis are now in the midst of contract breakers. Their organized employers there locked out and the agreement terminated. The workers refused to accept a cut in turn if they accepted a wage cut of $7 a week and an additional four hours a day, which they refused to sign by the secretary of the bosses' union.

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FORCED ARBITRATION FAILS IN AUSTRALIA

Washington, Jan. 14.—While employers in this country are using industrial courts to stop strikes and to get wages reduced, organized workers are fighting this arrangement according to trade union publications from that country received at A. F. of L. headquarters.

Compulsion has become so strong that the federal and state governments are attempting to patch of the decaying and to induce the workers to again take passage.

At a recent conference, held in Melbourne, the federal and state premiers proposed to establish a combined court of commonwealth and state judges to determine in basic wage, the number of hours to be worked and to act as a court of appeal from all other industrial tribunals.

The Australian trade unionists do not respond to the suggestion, and the Australian Worker, published in Sydney, New South Wales, issue of November 16, calls the scheme "gross hoodwink and humbug."

"The state premiers and the commonwealth prime minister," says this paper, "are tinkering with arbitration as they please. They may create another court to hand out additional judges at high salaries to fix low wages for the worker.

"Labor looks upon it quite unconcerned. It has formed its own plans and methods. It has no respect with horsehair interpretations of justice.

"The fact of the matter is, the system of legal arbitration is founded on a delusion.

"Judges do not have to appear before a board of working men and submit their household and personal accounts to examination, and bring along their wives to be inquisitorially cross-questioned as to the quantity and quality of their underclothing they wear, and how much butter and milk and jam they give their children."

Minimum Wage Law Opposed by Bosses

Boston, Jan. 14.—Employers in this state are preparing to attack the Massachusetts minimum wage law. All sorts of contradictory reasons are advanced. In one breath the bosses say it is driving business from the state, and then they claim that only 76,000 women are working under its decrees and that most of these females are earning more than the minimum.

Recently three women social workers attempted to live on the 76 cents a day that one minimum wage law pays. The employing opponents of the law want a free hand in setting wages. They is assured if the law is repealed and they succeed in maintaining the present opposition to organized labor among their employes.

There are approximately 250,000 women that come under the law, but to date rates have been made for only 76,000.

WOULD DILUTE UNIONS.

Manchester, England, Jan. 14.—The cotton districts of Lancashire, English cities and towns are at stake and sevens because of the attempt to alter their constitution and admit members of the labor party and trade unionists. The I. L. P. and trade unionists. In Rochdale the feeling has reached a high point. Trade unionists resent the Russian declarations of alleged intellectuals that the central bodies "need new blood," and that they have outlived their usefulness."

"Organized labor," says the Cotton Factory Times," still has its duties, and the trades councils, pure and simple, have a definite place as distinct from a labor party of varied elements.

"Fire-eating, self-constituted 'leaders' of the labor movement keep crying out for a split, there with their superiority and sneers at the bona fide representatives in and out of parliament.

"As the trade councils are pressed, constituted, they are the bogus laber men outside; with the proposed amalgamation any man who can get a few members calling of the so-called 'labor' societies may be called upon to rule or ruin our union policies."

DROP WILD PROPOGANDA

Toledo, Ohio, Jan. 14.—Business interests in this city are asking that their wild propoganda that the trade unionism movement is controlled by anti-Americans.

As the unions have refused to retract from their well known principles the business men now discover that they have libeled these workers.

TYPOS HOLD WAGE SCALE.

Pittsburgh, Pa., Jan. 14.—Newspaper printers and newspaper employers in this city have renewed their wage agreement for one year.

COOPERS ARE STICKERS.

New York, Jan. 14.—Organized coopers employed on the docks in this city have been on strike since last July, and are still sticking.

"Picket for Privilege" Is Angered at Gompers

New York, Jan. 14.—The New York Times is angered because of President Gompers' stand against "can't-strike" laws.

The Times is the picket for privilege. It is the first to cry "Let well enough alone!" when the dollar is in danger. Dividends is its sacred ox and holy of holies.

Recently in this city President Gompers denounced "can't-strike" laws. He said this legislation means compulsory legislation, and the workers will not obey it.

The picket for privilege scents danger to the handcuff plot, and attempts to offset the effect of this declaration. It recalls that in 1919 the United States supreme court ruled that a soap manufacturer may set the price at which retailers must sell that commodity. Recently in the case of a ham and bacon manufacturer the court reversed itself.

Because the supreme court is "balled up" in its efforts to enforce the anti-trust law, and President Gompers takes a clear position against holding workers in the peonage, the Times editor unlimbers his elephantine sarcasm against the trade unionist.

"For Samuel Gompers, the law is the law, and outside a twilight zone of dubiety," the world is informed.

The picket for privilege makes no distinction, of course, between the trade-unions and beings (who do not clip coupons).

Living Wage Ignored By Paper Arbitrators

New York, Jan. 14.—An arbitration board has ruled off 25 per cent of the wages of 10,000 unskilled workers in the largest paper companies of the United States and Canada.

The decision reduces rates 8 cents an hour, making the basic wage 32 cents an hour, $2.56 a day. Skilled workers are not involved. Their rates are 45 cents an hour and upward. The workers' representative on the arbitration board refused to concur in the decision.

While declaring the workers will accept the award, as they pledged themselves to do, President Burke of the International Brotherhood of Paper, Pulp and Sulphite Workers said that the commonplea, in urging wage cuts, frankly stated that the cost of living was not being taken into consideration, but it was asked because "there is plenty of labor to be obtained at much lower rates than the prevailing union scale."

MONOXIDE GAS IS DEADLY.

Washington, Jan. 14.—The federal bureau of safety has issued a bulletin against the deadly carbon monoxide gas, which is said to be largely contributed and most frequent cause of industrial accidents and deaths from poisoning.

The gas is a product of incomplete combustion. Because it is without color, odor or taste its presence is frequently unsuspected. It may be found in buildings having a leaky furnace or chimney and in buildings where a gas stove has improper flue connection, such as is often found in tenements, tailor shops and restaurants.

This gas is formed in stoker rooms, in refineries, cement and brick plants, mines and tunnels, in exhaust from gasoline motors usually contains 5 to 7 per cent carbon monoxide and sometimes 12 per cent. Deaths from running an automobile engine in a closed garage is not infrequent.

COURT UPSETS TAX LAW.

Washington, Jan. 14.—The United States supreme court has set aside a North Dakota railroad tax law. By a second law the state has blocked an attempt of that state to tax these properties. In the first law, the court held that it is an interference with interstate commerce for the taxing of property without due process of law.

North Dakota then amended the act and this was appealed by the railroads. The court has set this aside on the ground that "it puts railroads in a class by themselves."

OPPOSE COSSACKS.

Frankfort, Ky., Jan. 14.—Organized labor has perfected plans to prevent establishment of state cossack system in this state. The unionists will also ask the legislature to prohibit the police, which attempt was made to include grain and cotton exchanges, but the motion was withdrawn when Senator Wadsworth announced he would block the original proposal if the amendment passed.

UNORGANIZED NOW PAY.

Jamestown, N. Y., Jan. 14.—Unorganized workers in local furniture factories have lost their eight-hour day and are compelled to work an additional hour.

Electric Bulb Prices Held Up by Monopoly

New York, Jan. 14.—Dazzling profits in electric bulbs because of a monopoly, was revealed by the Lockwood committee, which is probing the housing situation.

Harvey Harper, a Newark, N. J. manufacturer, told the committee that the Westinghouse general electric company controls 85 per cent of the electric lamps in this country, and that this yields an annual tribute from the people of $100,000,000.

Although the federal courts have ruled against manufacturers setting prices at which retailers must sell their goods, the witness said that the Westinghouse company has evolved means to defeat that decision.

The profits in these lamps was indicated by the statement that a headlight lamp that costs 15 or 20 cents to manufacture, are sold for 24 to 34 cents. The price that the retailer charges the final customer was not stated.

ASKS EAST TO FIGHT BLOC.

New York, Jan. 14. — A well-known banking firm in Broadway calls on the east to fight the senate "farm" bloc, whose influence is declared to be growing.

The bloc demands the creation of a rural credit system to permit loans on commodities. This "profound ignorance of common economic principles" appal these bankers, who remain silent when shipowners are demanding not a free but an outright gift of $100,000,000 of the people's money.

The "farm" bloc is also charged with forcing the retention of high rates in the revenue bill, contrary to the advice of the president and senate finance committee. Another "friendly" criticism is the enactment of members of the bloc to organized labor.

"The situation has thus become acute," moan the bankers. "It is unfortunate that the great eastern business and banking interests have been so long in coming to the realization that the bloc, despite some experimental discriminations of politics dominated by the middle west, has come to stay. It is entrenched at the polls, where, during the year of 1922, one-third of the members of the house and one-third of the entire membership of the house are to be elected."

MINERS ARE STARVING.

Washington, Jan. 14.—In letters to President Harding, West Virginia miners describe conditions in the coal fields. Statements by Governor Morgan of that state that there is no starvation among the miners' families.

Marfolk, W. Va., miners state that they worked but three months last year, and they are unable to say why the mines are not operating.

"The majority, or practically all, of these men, who number about 200, are in a destitute condition. Relief is the only thing in sight ahead nor the means of obtaining such," it is stated.

Similar statements have been made by miners in Mabscott and other mining centers.

AND THEY WONDER AT CRIME.

Chicago, Jan. 14.—The city unemployment commission reports that 15,000 men are penniless and walking the streets in this city during the day and 1,000 sleep in the open at night. The commission voted to seek an appropriation of $15,000 for municipal lodging houses and to ask the city council to open 15 municipal bath houses.

WILL PROBE FURNITURE.

Washington, Jan. 14.—The senate has authorized the federal trade commission to probe prices in the house furnishing industry. An attempt was made to include grain and cotton exchanges, but the motion was withdrawn when Senator Wadsworth announced he would block the original proposal if the amendment passed.

LESS MONEY CIRCULATED.

Washington, Jan. 14. — Wage earners will agree with the treasury department that there is less money in circulation than a year ago.

"SPIDER-FLY" GAME WORKED IN NEW YORK

New York, Jan. 14.—In their attempt to have a "can't-strike" law passed in this state, the board of trade of Binghamton is working the "spider and fly" game on trade unionists.

The handcuffers are distressed that workers are suspicious of their good intentions. They have nearly really benefit them, says Frank S. Gardner, secretary of the transportation board, who takes a fling at President Gompers, who is leading the fight against the proposed law.

"Ah, ha," saith Mr. Gardner. "These labor leaders have to blame. They are afraid of their jobs. They fear industrial peace. Then with all employers and all employees always satisfied and happy, there would be no such leaders." Whose industries are built out his sugar and molasses in heavy doses. "Under the new system, he says, if an employe stays on the job, and suffers loss of money or health, he can get damages."

He insists that the right of working men to strike be safeguarded—but will be required of them is that they must remain at work until they "have had their day in court."

The statement shows that "can't-strike" sentiment is influence it declared to be growing.

The bloc demands the creation of a rural credit system to permit loans on commodities. This "profound ignorance of common economic principles" appal these bankers, who remain silent when shipowners are demanding not a free but an outright gift of $100,000,000 of the people's money.

The "farm" bloc is also charged with forcing the retention of high rates in the revenue bill, contrary to the advice of the president and senate finance committee. Another "friendly" criticism is the enactment of members of the bloc to organized labor.

"The situation has thus become acute," moan the bankers. "It is unfortunate that the great eastern business and banking interests have been so long in coming to the realization that the bloc, despite some experimental discriminations of politics dominated by the middle west, has come to stay. It is entrenched at the polls, where, during the year of 1922, one-third of the members of the house and one-third of the entire membership of the house are to be elected."

MINERS ARE STARVING.

Washington, Jan. 14.—In letters to President Harding, West Virginia miners describe conditions in the coal fields. Statements by Governor Morgan of that state that there is no starvation among the miners' families.

Marfolk, W. Va., miners state that they worked but three months last year, and they are unable to say why the mines are not operating.

"The majority, or practically all, of these men, who number about 200, are in a destitute condition. Relief is the only thing in sight ahead nor the means of obtaining such," it is stated.

Similar statements have been made by miners in Mabscott and other mining centers.

AND THEY WONDER AT CRIME.

Chicago, Jan. 14.—The city unemployment commission reports that 15,000 men are penniless and walking the streets in this city during the day and 1,000 sleep in the open at night. The commission voted to seek an appropriation of $15,000 for municipal lodging houses and to ask the city council to open 15 municipal bath houses.

WILL PROBE FURNITURE.

Washington, Jan. 14.—The senate has authorized the federal trade commission to probe prices in the house furnishing industry. An attempt was made to include grain and cotton exchanges, but the motion was withdrawn when Senator Wadsworth announced he would block the original proposal if the amendment passed.

LESS MONEY CIRCULATED.

Washington, Jan. 14. — Wage earners will agree with the treasury department that there is less money in circulation than a year ago.

FLIRT WITH SALES TAX.

New York, Jan. 14.—A "committee of business men" has been started to educate the public in scientific taxation. It is stated that "most of the business men of the country believe in a sales tax, and it is probably to such a society as this that we shall be obliged to come."

The committee gives solemn assurance that it is not a business trust—just an educational movement.

CHARGE BUILDING COMBINE.

Washington, Jan. 14. — There is charged a building combine in the capital, and the price for building material has jumped 100 to 150 per cent. Of the 800 tons in the harbor steamship are tied up because they refuse to sign last year's agreement.

HARBOR TUGS TIED UP.

New York, Jan. 14.—Tug boat owners are being resisted in every attempt to establish the 72-hour week and a wage increase of 25 per cent. Of the 800 tugs in the harbor steamship are tied up because they refuse to sign last year's agreement.